Australian Bureau of Statistics

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 8 April 1993

The week in statistics ...

There will be no *Statistics Weekly* next week.
The next issue will be released on
Thursday, 22 April 1993.

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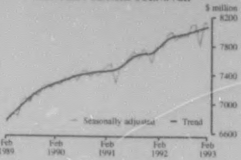
IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

Steady growth in retail trade

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



There is further evidence of steady growth in the turnover of retail and selected service establishments since September last year. With the addition of the February 1993 result (a slight fall of 0.1% in seasonally adjusted terms from January 1993) the trend estimate is now showing an increase of 0.2 per cent for each of the last six months.

The estimates in recent months have been marked by significant variations in the trends among the major retail groups.

The grocery and clothing industries continue to strengthen after hitting low points in August/September of 1992. The grocery industry is steadily strengthening to average 0.4 per cent per month over the three months ended February 1993 while the clothing industry result is somewhat more volatile swinging from a large decline in August 1992 to a relatively strong increase in February 1993.

The situation in relation to department and general stores is uncertain. After strongish growth in October and November 1992, the rate of growth in the trend estimates has fallen dramatically to average 0.3 per cent over the past three months, with February showing no change over January. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs are now showing growth following a period of decline. Other food stores are in decline.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in February 1993 ($ million)	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended February 1993	*12 months ended February 1993*
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,252	0.4	0.5
Butchers	184	1.2	1.0
Other food stores	499	−0.5	−0.3
Total food group	*2,935*	*0.3*	*0.4*
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	869	0.0	−0.1
Department and general stores	637	0.3	0.3
Clothing and fabrics stores	434	0.7	−0.3
Electrical goods stores	389	0.1	0.3
Pharmacies	294	−0.1	0.8
Newsagents	280	0.7	0.3
Other industries	1,264	n.a.	na
All industries	*7,102*	*0.2*	*0.3*

A feature of the State-by-State estimates for February was the New South Wales result, which indicated that the trend in that State is recovering from a decline observed between July and November 1992. Trend estimates now show growth of 0.2 per cent for both January and February 1993 in New South Wales.

Continued ...

On the other hand, growth rates for Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia are easing. As a result, the trend turnover estimates in most States are tending to converge with the national average. An exception is Tasmania, where turnover has been growing quite strongly for more than a year.

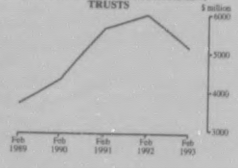
RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER
Monthly percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
1992								
October	-0.3	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.1	0.4	1.1	0.2
November	-0.1	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.2
December	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.2
1993								
January	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.2
February	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.2

For further information, order the publication Retail Trade, Australia *(8501.0), or contact Bill Powell on (06) 252 6132.*

Public trusts lift share as slide goes on for cash management

TOTAL ASSETS OF CASH MANAGEMENT TRUSTS



TOTAL ASSETS OF PUBLIC UNIT TRUSTS

The value of assets held by public unit trusts rose by 4.4 per cent in the December quarter to stand at $26,304 million at the end of December 1992. That figure is 6.2 per cent higher than total assets one year earlier.

The value of all units in issue of public unit trusts was $22,540 million at the end of the period, while total borrowings by the trusts stood at $1,417 million.

In the December quarter the assets of unlisted trusts rose by a strong 9.1 per cent to $15,023 million, while those of listed trusts fell by 1.3 per cent to $11,282 million.

A separate publication issued this week showed that the assets of Australian cash management trusts resumed their downward trend in the month of February 1993.

The asset valuation of $5,126 million at the end of February was down 2.1 per cent on the January level and down 15.9 per cent on the peak reached by the cash management trusts in January 1992.

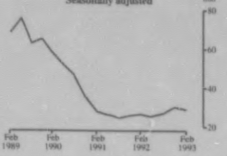
Units redeemed during February increased by more that 20 per cent to $1,023 million, and while the value of new applications increased slightly, redemptions exceeded new applications by $130 million.

The weighted average net yield of cash management trusts was steady at 4.80 per cent, on a weighted average term to maturity of 54.7 days — up from 52.9 days in January. The 90-day bank bill rate was 5.80 per cent at end February compared with 5.85 per cent a month earlier.

For further information, order the publications Cash Management Trusts, Australia *(5635.0) and* Public Unit Trusts, Australia *(5645.0), or contact John Hyland on (06) 252 5384.*

Job vacancies remain relatively flat, but overtime increases

JOB VACANCIES
Seasonally adjusted



The estimated number of job vacancies fell by 4.4 per cent to 28,900 (seasonally adjusted) in the three months to February 1993. The February figure is 8.3 per cent higher than the number of vacancies for February 1992.

In original terms, the private sector — 23,000 vacancies, up 4.5 per cent on November 1992 — has maintained the upward movement in recorded vacancies evident in recent quarters, while vacancies in the public sector continue to decline — 6,800 vacancies in February, down 5.2 per cent on November 1992.

In the twelve month period to February 1993:

- vacancies in the private sector increased by 20.6 per cent; and
- public sector vacancies declined by 19.9 per cent.

JOB VACANCIES

	At 20 November 1992	*At 19 February 1993*	*Percentage change*
Original —			
Private sector	22,000	23,000	4.5
Public sector	7,200	6,800	-5.2
All sectors	*29,200*	*29,800*	*2.1*
New South Wales	10,600	10,000	-5.5
Victoria	5,800	7,300	26.2
Queensland	4,800	4,900	0.8
South Australia	1,900	1,400	-26.4
Western Australia	3,300	4,300	30.1
Tasmania	600	400	-25.0
Northern Territory	700	500	-27.7
Australian Capital Territory	1,500	1,000	-32.6
Australia	*29,200*	*29,800*	*2.1*
Seasonally adjusted —			
Australia	30,200	28,900	-4.4

Overtime

AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME
Seasonally adjusted

Estimated weekly overtime per employee in February 1993 was 1.16 hours (seasonally adjusted), up slightly from 1.13 hours per employee in November 1992 and 3.8 per cent higher than February 1992.

Average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime was estimated at 7.29 hours in February 1993, an increase of 2.9 per cent from November 1992 and an increase of 5.0 per cent from February 1992.

For further information, order the publication Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia *(6354.0), or contact Ann Soutar (09) 323 5304.*

Census data mapped for Adelaide

The second in a series of eight 1991 Census capital city social atlases has been released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Adelaide ... A Social Atlas presents the facts and figures about Adelaide's population from the 1991 Census through a series of 46 colour maps. The *Atlas* divides the metropolitan area into over 1,700 parts (called collection districts) and shades each one according to the percentage of people it has with the characteristic being mapped.

Characteristics of the population are presented under the broad categories of population, ethnicity, education, families, income, labour force, and dwellings.

Some of the striking demographic patterns revealed by maps in the *Atlas* include:

- the high percentages of 0 to 4 year olds located in the outer northern and outer southern suburbs of Adelaide;
- the large population growth that has occurred in Golden Grove in the north and Woodcroft and Noarlunga Downs in the south;
- the high percentage of Italian-born people in the north-western suburbs of Adelaide;
- the large number of people with university qualifications living in Adelaide's south-eastern suburbs;
- the high percentage of one-parent families living in those areas where there was SA Housing Trust accommodation;
- the high proportions of high income earners living in the eastern and south-eastern suburbs of Adelaide, in the inner suburbs around North Adelaide and in the western suburbs of West Lakes and Tennyson; and
- the high unemployment rates evident in the north-western and outer northern suburbs of Adelaide.

The *Social Atlas* series is being produced as data becomes available from the 1991 Census. The atlas for Hobart was released in January (*see Statistics Weekly* article 21 January 1993) and those for other capital cities will be released progressively through 1993.

All ABS capital city atlases will have a common core set of maps to facilitate comparisons between cities as well as maps emphasising the different attributes of particular cities.

For further information, order the publication Adelaide ... a Social Atlas *(2840.4), or contact Chris Goldspink on (08) 237 7413.*

This week in brief ...

❐ Health insurance

The proportion of people covered by private health insurance fell to 48 per cent in June 1992, from 52 per cent in June 1990. The proportion of contributor units with private health insurance also fell over the same period by a similar amount to 44 per cent from 47 per cent. A contributor unit consists of those individuals or family groups covered by common health insurance arrangements. Of privately insured contributor units, 71 per cent had both hospital and ancillary cover, 19 per cent had hospital cover only and 7 per cent had ancillary cover only. Some 79 per cent of units with hospital insurance had cover at higher than basic levels. The most frequently reported reasons for having private health insurance were 'security/peace of mind' (40%) and 'choice of doctor' (32%). The proportion of contributor units with private health insurance varied between the States and Territories, ranging from 54 per cent in South Australia to 38 per cent in Queensland.

Source: Health Insurance Survey, Australia, June 1992 (4335.0).

❐ Assets of superannuation funds

At the end of December 1992 the value of total assets of superannuation funds and approved deposit funds (ADFs) stood at $155,504 million, an increase of $3,545 million (2.3%) on the revised September 1992 figure of $151,959 million and up $7,538 million (5.1%) on the revised December 1991 figure of $147,966 million.

The major movements in assets during the December quarter 1992 were in bills of exchange, up $1,427 million (22.7%), state and local government securities, up $1,432 million (10.5%), private trading corporations shares, up $1,922 million (5.7%) and other short-term assets, down $838 million (22.5%).

At the end of December 1992 the assets of superannuation funds and ADFs were concentrated in shares (26.7%), long-term assets (22.2%), overseas assets (14.7%) and land and buildings (9.3%).

Source: Assets of Superannuation Funds and Approved Deposit Funds, December Quarter 1992 (5656.0).

❐ Census counts for small areas — Western Australia

The total number of people counted in Western Australia on census night, 6 August 1991, was 1,586,825. This represents a 12.8 per cent increase in the census count since the 1986 Census.

The statistical local area of Wanneroo had the largest increase in population from 1986 to 1991, from 126,053 to 167,873. This was followed by Melville, which increased from 67,131 people to 84,838 and Swan, which increased from 37,383 people to 53,107.

72.0 per cent of the total State population were counted in the Perth Statistical Division. South West Statistical Division was next, with 8.5 per cent of the total.

55.9 per cent of the people counted were aged less than 35 years. The proportion aged 65 years and over was 9.8 per cent.

The number of occupied private dwellings counted in Western Australia increased by 17.7 per cent since the 1986 Census. The greatest increase was in Kimberley Statistical Division (28.0%), followed by South West Statistical Division (26.7%), Perth Statistical Division (17.7%), and South Eastern Statistical Division (17.4%).

Source: Census Counts for Small Areas: Western Australia, 1991 Census of Population and Housing (2730.5).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Editor

(06) 252 6104

Order from the following:

Expected releases over the fortnight to 20 April

April

8 — The Labour Force, Australia, March 1993, Preliminary (6202.0; $10.70)

15 — Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, February 1993 (6407.0; $10.70)

Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, February 1993 (6408.0; $8.20)

19 — Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, February 1993 (5609.0; $10.70)

Export Price Index, Australia, February 1993 (6405.0; $8.20)

Selected releases: 31 March to 6 April

Census of Population and Housing

1991 Census — Restructured Local Government Areas: Tas., (2795.6; $15.00) — *new issue*

Social statistics

Families in Aust.: A Guide to Survey Content and Procedures, March to May 1992 (4415.0; $10.00) — *new issue*

Australian Capital Territory's Young People, June 1991 (4123.8; $12.50) — *new issue*

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts, September Qtr 1992 (5232.0; $50.00)

Foreign Trade, Aust.: International Cargo, June Qtr 1992 (5440.0; $9.70)

Lease Finance, Aust., February 1993 (5644.0; $6.10)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., February 1993 (6203.0; $16.30)

The Australian Labour Market, 1992 (6284.0; $5.00) — *new issue*

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., February 1993 (6312.0; $12.70)

The Labour Force, NSW, February 1993 (6201.1; $16.30)

The Labour Force, Qld, February 1993 (6201.3; $16.30)

Agriculture

Agriculture Statistics — Selected Small Area Data, NSW, 1991–92 (7120.1; $16.30)

Agricultural Land Use and Selected Inputs, Qld, 1991–92 (7411.3; $12.80)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, January 1993 (8360.0; $10.70)

Engineering Construction Activity, Aust., December Qtr 1992 (8762.0; $10.70)

Tourist Accommodation, NSW, December Qtr 1992 (8635.1; $20.00)

Building Approvals, NSW, February 1993 (8731.1; $10.70)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, November 1992 (8741.1; $10.70)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, February 1993 (9303.3; $10.50)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., February 1993 (9303.6; $5.60)

The latest — consolidated to 6 April 1993

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available: Original	Latest figure available: Seasonally adjusted	Percentage change (a) on: Previous period	Percentage change (a) on: Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices (e)	Dec. qtr 92	$m	n.a.	93,598	0.7	2.5
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	Feb. 93	$m	−660	−797	76	4
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	207	365	−45	29
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	352	198	−64	27
Merchandise exports	"	"	4,637	5,053	−3	13
Merchandise imports	"	"	−4,430	−4,688	3	12
Net foreign debt	31 Dec. 92	$m	168,251	n.a.	2.7	16.1
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	213,744	n.a.	2.6	13.1
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	Feb. 93	$m	7,102	8,114	−0.1	4.1
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices	Dec. qtr 92	"	6,524	6008	9.2	5.6
New motor vehicle registrations	Feb. 93	no.	39,896	43,553	−2.3	−1.7
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	Dec. qtr 92	$m	34,960	33,470	2.7	2.2
Dwelling unit approvals	Feb. 93	no.	13,043	14,330	−4.5	19.4
Building approvals	"	$m	1,826	2,124	−11.9	21.0
Building work done at 1984–85 prices	Sept. qtr 92	"	3,919	3,805	−0.1	0.9
Prices						
Consumer price index	Dec. qtr 92	1989–90 = 100.0	107.9	n.a.	0.5	0.3
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Jan. 93	1988–89 = 100.0	114.5	n.a.	0.4	2.6
Materials used in manufacturing industries	Jan. 93	1984–85 = 100.0	126.7	n.a.	−0.2	4.8
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons (d)	Feb. 93	'000	7,606.1	7,659.2	−0.9	−0.6
Participation rate † (d)	"	%	62.7	62.4	−0.5	−0.8
Unemployment rate † (d)	"	"	12.2	11.1	0.1	0.5
Job vacancies	Feb. 93	'000	29.8	28.9	−4.4	8.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.14	1.16	3.0	3.8
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	Sept. 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.3	1.3
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Dec. 92	'000	302	222	−4.7	15.8
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	Dec. qtr 92	$m	4,853	3,728	−10.2	25.1
Average weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	Nov. 92	$	586.90	n.a.	0.2	1.4
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	Feb. 93	% per annum	5.80	n.a.	−0.05	−1.70
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.00	n.a.	0.60	−2.05
Exchange rate — $US	Feb. 93	per $A	0.6812	n.a.	1	−9

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) *Source*: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 8 April 1993.
NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year: NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	Sept. qtr 92	−15.9	−15.2	2.9	−29.3	0.3	−18.8	n.a.	n.a.	−10.6
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	Feb. 93	0.7	2.8	6.8	−0.8	8.7	6.0	n.a.	7.0	3.5
New motor vehicle registrations†	Feb. 93	2.8	−10.2	0.5	−10.5	5.7	−7.0	1.7	9.1	−1.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Feb. 93	29.4	15.7	−2.6	51.7	20.2	−27.8	−37.8	−0.6	19.4
Value of total building work done	Sept. qtr 92	−7.6	−5.1	12.5	2.4	12.5	−9.5	26.6	11.2	0.0
Employed persons*	Feb. 93	−2.0	−1.8	1.6	1.7	1.3	−1.3	−6.8	4.9	−0.6
Capital city consumer price index	Dec. qtr 92	0.3	−0.2	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Nov. 92	0.9	1.2	1.4	3.4	1.2	3.2	5.9	1.7	1.4
Population	Sept. 92	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.7	1.6	0.8	1.0	2.3	1.3
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Sept. qtr 92	3.9	2.5	3.7	0.2	2.0	−0.7	−0.7	1.7	2.9

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.
Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 7). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

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